

Translation

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PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P032604/WO/1	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP2003/005096	International filing date (day/month/year) 15 May 2003 (15.05.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 28 June 2002 (28.06.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B60R 19/24, 19/34, B62D 21/15		
Applicant DAIMLERCHRYSLER AG		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 2 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

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Date of submission of the demand 18 October 2003 (18.10.2003)	Date of completion of this report 20 August 2004 (20.08.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP2003/005096

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- ☐ the international application as originally filed
- ☒ the description:
pages _____ 1-8 _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☒ the claims:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____ 1-5 _____, filed with the letter of _____ 21 July 2004 (21.07.2004)
- ☒ the drawings:
pages _____ 1/1 _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig _____

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.
PCT/EP 03/05096

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-5	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-5	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-5	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Reference is made to the following document:

D1: DE19600933 A1

D1, which is considered to represent the closest prior art, discloses (see column 1, line 43 to column 2, line 7; column 2, last paragraph to column 3, line 3):

A supporting structure for a motor vehicle (see figure 1), in particular a passenger car, having a longitudinal member arrangement (6, 7 to 41-42 on 13) to which a bumper arrangement (36-40) is attached at least at one longitudinal end (41, 42 from 13), said bumper arrangement having a transverse member (36), wherein the transverse member (36) is supported by two longitudinal member elements (longitudinal member elements on 36) axially to the longitudinal member arrangement (6, 7 to 41-42 on 13) and wherein the longitudinal member elements (longitudinal member elements on 36) are fastened in a median section of the transverse member (36, figure 1) located at a distance from the ends, wherein the longitudinal member elements (longitudinal member elements on 36) at their ends (37, 38) facing away from the transverse member (36) are fastened by a bearing bracket (37-42) to each other and to

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the longitudinal member arrangement (6, 7 to 41-42 on 13) and the bearing bracket (37-42) is designed as a crash element (see column 1, line 66 to column 2, line 7), which in the event of a crash is energy absorbing.

The subject matter of claim 1 differs from this prior art in that the bumper arrangement has a bumper bracket fastened to the ends of the transverse member and that the bumper bracket is supported on the transverse member at least in its median section by at least one energy-absorbing foamed body.

The problem addressed is considered to be that of reducing the risk of injury to pedestrians during less severe collisions.

Claim 1 solves this problem by means of the bumper bracket and the foamed body, wherein the absorbing ability of the supporting structure is improved with respect to relatively small impact loads, which are absorbed entirely elastically without damage to the supporting structure, and the risk of injury to pedestrians is reduced.

Claims 2-5 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore likewise meet the PCT requirements for novelty and inventive step.

Claims 1-5 are industrially applicable (PCT Article 33(4)).

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